



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION – ENTOMOLOGY PROGRAM

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Invitation to Gypsy Moth Open House

February 11, 2002

Dear Crown Hill area resident,

Last spring the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) discovered eight gypsy moths, four egg masses, and five pupal cases in Crown Hill. This was the third straight year that gypsy moth activity has been detected in Crown Hill. In 1999 three moths were caught in the area, and in 2000 one moth was caught.

As a result, the state Department of Agriculture is proposing to treat with ground equipment 16.5 acres of Crown Hill this spring with a biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (*Btk*), to eradicate the infestation. The gypsy moth is one of the worst forest pest insects in U.S. history. Our goal is to keep the gypsy moth from becoming established in our state.

You are invited to an open house on Tuesday, February 19 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Whittier Elementary School, 1320 NW 75th St. We hope you will come to review material or ask questions about the infestation and proposed treatment. Feel free to drop in anytime during this period.

In case you can't attend, here is some basic information on the proposed treatment:

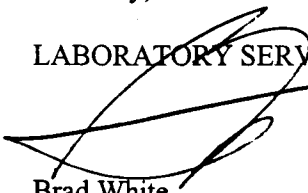
1. Three treatments are proposed, seven to 14 days apart, beginning in late April or early May.
2. The boundaries of the proposed zone are 1) in the north, 83rd St. NW; 2) in the east, 8th Ave. NW; 3) in the south, an east-west line running two properties south of 80th St. NW; and 4) in the west, 10th Ave. NW.
3. The biological insecticide we propose to use, *Btk*, has been used successfully in gypsy moth projects in Washington for more than 20 years. It has a proven safety record with people, pets, livestock, birds, fish, and other insects such as bees. *Btk* has been evaluated in a final environmental impact statement (FEIS), which includes human health and ecological risk assessments. It is found naturally in the soil and is toxic only to moths and butterflies in the caterpillar stage when the insecticide is applied. *Btk* is commonly used by organic gardeners today.

Enclosed for your information is a fact sheet on the gypsy moth, a map of the proposed treatment zone, and a copy of a press release recently sent to the media. If you have any questions on the proposed treatment, please call us at (800) 443-6684, send e-mail to Gypsymoth@agr.wa.gov, or visit our Web site at www.wa.gov/agr/gypsy.htm.

I look forward to seeing you on February 19 at the open house.

Sincerely,

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION


Brad White
Managing Entomologist
Attachments

